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NO NOTICE taken of anonymous communications. We do not return them.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.—Containing important news, collected from all quarters of the world, of great interest to all who are desirous of keeping themselves posted on the progress of the war, and the state of the various countries.

LETTERS BY MAIL.—For the purpose of receiving letters from our readers, and of publishing them, if they are of interest to the public, and if they do not contain anything that is offensive to the public morals.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—Received every day.

Volume XXXI. No. 204.

AMUSEMENTS FOR THE EVENING.

CASINO GARDEN.—LIONEL LILLY.

BROADWAY THEATRE.—MORRIS, MORGAN, AND COMPANY.

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whose property was destroyed by the U. S. ship of war, the *Albatross*, at San Juan del Norte, at the Irving House, at five o'clock this afternoon, to take the matter into consideration, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary.

In another part of the paper will be found interesting reports of the commencement of three of our colleges. The centennial commencement of Columbia College took place at New York yesterday. It was attended by a large and fashionable audience. That of Rutgers College was celebrated at New Brunswick, N. J., on Tuesday, when the Hon. Theodore Tilton presided. The exercises were of a high order. The commencement of Genoa College took place on Tuesday. The reports will repay a perusal.

Among the deaths by cholera we notice that of the daughter of ex-President Fillmore, at Ancona, yesterday morning.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, yesterday morning, decided that selling liquor on Sunday did not constitute keeping a disorderly house, but was only a fine offence. It is probable that most of the taverns that can afford to pay the fine will now keep open on Sundays.

The German Catholic Orphan Asylum at Troy Hill, near Allegheny, Pa., was destroyed by fire yesterday morning.

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.
Common brands of State flour again advanced 4 to 12 cents per barrel yesterday. Grain was unchanged. The sales of cotton yesterday were said to have been 700 bales, and 1,700 bales of the day before. On common grades, or qualities below middling, there was a decline of one-eighth of a cent, while good to fine descriptions were scarce and higher.

The Late Disgraceful Affair at San Juan.
Unraveling of the War Power—A Question for Congress.

The belligerent propensities of our present administration could not have been more strikingly illustrated than in the bombardment and burning by its order, of the ineffective and defenceless village of Greytown, in San Juan de Nicaragua. Such an act of ignorance, stupidity, and badly appropriated moral courage, has scarcely its parallel, even in the lawless military operations of the Spanish American republics against each other.

Major Borland, our late Minister to Central America, returning down the river San Juan homeward, is the witness to the shooting of a native by the captain of the steamer upon which our Minister is a passenger. He sees the captain deliberately shoot down a boatman in his burgalo. The steamer arrives at San Juan, the authorities of the place endeavor to arrest the captain. Major Borland picks up a rifle and keeps them at bay. Subsequently he enters the village; the house which he has entered is surrounded by a mob, and they call him hard names, and threaten him with violence, utterly disregarding of his official character. He contrives to escape, returns to Washington, lays his case before the Cabinet. They are astounded that a parcel of the black and yellow subjects of the Mosquito King should thus dare to insult the American representative, under cover, though the natives were, of British protection. The insult to Borland, and the detention of the steamer, must be redressed. And so the sloop-of-war *Cyane* is sent down to do the job. Indemnity for the outrage against Borland and the detention of the steamer, to the extent of \$24,000, is demanded and refused. The town is bombarded, and the town is burnt. American honor and the American flag are vindicated, and the thing is done, like the storming of Fort Christiana in New Jersey, by the ancient Knickerbockers, "without the loss of a single man on either side."

Such, in a few words, is the best face which can be put upon the matter, in behalf of the administration. But what are the real merits of the case? Let us see:

Major Borland interferes in the protection of a man charged with murder, against the efforts of the local authorities of San Juan to arrest him. Afterwards the Major goes into the town, and the populace insult him. Having forgotten his official character they ceased to respect him, which was natural enough. He had unlawfully interfered in the protection of a man charged with crime, and they had seized the opportunity for retaliation. The affair might thus be considered as evenly balanced between the parties; or, if there were any uncancelled outrage in the case, it was the outrage against the local authorities of San Juan.

The stupidity of the bombardment and burning of the village we have already exhibited. It was a stupid and shameful farce. What honor, or glory, or indemnity could possibly be gained by burning the mud and palm-leaved huts of the poor natives? And what sort of satisfaction against the British protectorate could possibly be secured by the destruction of the houses and other property of American citizens, who constitute the men of business and the principal property owners of the place. Yet, against the protest of the commander of a British vessel of war, Captain Collins, in obedience to his instructions, involves the interest and prosperity of American citizens in his work of vengeance.

Is not this a most singular and unparalleled affair? A British officer, vainly interposing and protesting against the destruction of American property, and against an outrage upon unfriendly American citizens by an American vessel of war, and all for the punishment of certain proceedings of a mob, for which the American Minister, in his unauthorized conduct, is wholly responsible. Such an affair could only occur under the dictation of some such stupid and imbecile administration as the present one.

But we have a graver objection to enter against this thing than its wanton barbarity, or its inconsistency, or its stupidity, or its worse than useless results. The President of the United States, in this affair, is liable to the charge of an act of war against a friendly power, for which he has no more authority than the filibusters against whom he has recently flung his proclamation. Congress alone has power to make war in behalf of the United States. When the Executive usurps the power he violates the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, and violates his oath to support the federal constitution.

In this view, admitting that the village of San Juan is under the British Mosquito protectorate, the destruction of the place by an American vessel of war, is less an affair of honor between the British and American governments, than a question of unlawful usurpation between the Executive and Congress. In both aspects we can anticipate a considerable cooling down in the warlike ardor of our Cabinet, before this disgraceful filibustering is finally adjourned. But there is no occasion for alarm. There is no danger of a war with Great Britain. The mantle of Old Hickory does not hang upon the shoulders of the present administration. It will not.

Origin of the European War and Utterance of Napoleon.
Napoleon, his Genes and his Arabian.

There is a saying attributed to the late Lord Dudley and Ward, in speaking of the first Napoleon, which bids fair to be falsified by the qualities developed by his nephew and successor. "He has rendered past glory doubtful," observed that accomplished nobleman to the French ambassador, "and future glory impossible."

The axiom that great men are more frequently made by circumstances than by their own abilities, was, to some extent, true in the case of the subject of this remark. He was the child and creature of the revolution, rather than the originator of a new order of ideas. Dug with blood, and worn out by its own excesses, the revolution could only pass from one violent extreme to the other, none of the intermediate conditions of government being compatible with the feverish excitement under which it had been so long laboring. As in the case of a patient brought to the verge of dissolution by the abuse of stimulants, it was necessary to keep up the public pulse to an unnatural pitch before it could be gradually reduced to its normal state. The merit of Napoleon consisted in his quick appreciation of the necessities of the epoch. Contrary to the generally received notion, he in the earlier stages of his power followed public opinion, rather than led it. No man who ever rose to sovereign power by the weight of his own talents, ever watched with more scrutinizing and careful eye the current of popular feeling. It is a mistake to suppose that it was to his daring alone that he owed his good fortune. It was rather to his close observation of the political indications of the times, than to his mere adventurousness of spirit, that he was indebted for his early successes. His downfall was brought about by his neglect of those qualities, the exercise of which, as much as his military talents, contributed to place him on the proud elevation to which he attained.

In the present Emperor of France we recognize the possession of a different order of genius, which promises to lead to equally brilliant, but more enduring results. With great natural astuteness he combines a clearness and steadiness of judgment, a self-reliance and tenacity of purpose which were not always manifested by his predecessor, and which have enabled him already to effect by the force of mind alone, more substantial victories than were ever gained by the military talents of his predecessor. He has governed, rather than been guided by, circumstances, and from the period at which his higher qualities were first called into exercise he has evinced a confidence in his own powers and resources, which has never as yet, in any single instance, been belied by the result. No man could have emerged from under the weight of obloquy and ridicule which his enemies had so industriously contrived to heap upon him, and have passed triumphantly through the trying ordeals to which he was subjected in his efforts to maintain himself in the difficult position to which the accident of his birth had raised him, without the possession of a more than ordinary amount of judgment, sagacity and firmness. Each successive step that he has taken to consolidate the power which he has wrested from the contending factions that struggled to effect his downfall, has only served to display those qualities in a clearer and stronger light. He now stands confessedly the master mind of Europe, and the highest proof that can be adduced of the wisdom and tact that have guided his conduct in the difficult conjuncture of circumstances in which he has been placed, is the fact that his popularity has grown with his successes, and that even his bitterest enemies are reluctantly obliged to admit that they have been deceived in their estimation of his character.

Among those who are now readiest to bear testimony to the high qualities displayed by the French Emperor, is, strange to say, the man who has most reason to feel vindictively towards him. The Czar, while he complains that the present war has been brought about by Louis Napoleon, to strengthen his own position at home, does not hesitate to declare that he is the greatest man in Europe, and that although he may not possess the great military talents of his uncle (which yet remains to be proved), he is a shrewder and wiser politician. No one who has attentively watched the course of events since the mission of M. Lavallette to Constantinople, will be inclined to dispute the truth of the first of these assertions. The English were frightened into the coalition by the French Emperor, in order to carry out his ulterior designs, which take a wider range than the maintenance of the independence of a crumbling empire, that must sooner or later fall to pieces, or that of preserving that delusive adjustment of political interests in which such value is placed by modern diplomatists—the balance of power in Europe. The fact is that England has lost all the great statesmen that have hitherto guided her councils, and is now governed by feeble and vacillating minds, that are unequal to cope with the difficulties of any great emergency, such as that in which she is now placed. In the hands of a crafty, ambitious, and daring ally like the French Emperor, whose views soar far beyond the professed objects of the present war, such men as the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord John Russell are but unconscious instruments of his designs. Men of that stamp can hardly be said to compose a government—at least such a government as is capable of conducting to successful results the policy of a great nation. It is a government of endurance rather than of choice—a sort of municipal oligarchy like that of the Venice of former times—powerful only for mischief. Who can wonder then that, while flattering their vanity, and appearing respectful to accept their advice, a man of Machiavellian ability, like the French Emperor, should succeed in easily moulding them to his views, and in blinding them to the best interests of their country.

It is extraordinary that, with the prospective dangers of their own insane confidence in this able ruler staring them in the face, they should still continue insensible to them, whilst the rest of the world, and even the French themselves, attach such a significant importance to each of his movements. We all recollect the outcry raised about the French occupation of Rome, but that bold step sinks into insignificance beside the occupation of Constantinople, the occupation of Greece, and the prospective occupation of the most important ports in the Baltic by French troops. If the courts of Sweden and Denmark show any disposition to side with Russia, we shall soon see their capitals in the possession of the land forces of France. Prussia, too, unless she is able to repel those grasping invaders from her coasts, may also be compelled to pay another tribute to French ambition. Talk of the dangers arising from the

encroachments of the Czar—why they are of no importance compared with those of a greater and more wide spread peril that arise from the quietly accumulated elements of universal empire which British folly and British bloodness have placed at the disposal of France. Well may the Czar respect and admire the genius of his rival. The contest for European supremacy lies for the future between them.

Free Press in Kansas and Nebraska.
The Free Soil Emigrating Society.

The administration is evidently beggied and befogged in its strict constructions of the constitution. After the veto of the charitable bill for distributing ten millions of acres of the public lands to the different States, to aid in the support of their lunatic asylums, nobody supposed that the same lawyer could approve a bill granting a free farm to Tom, Dick, and Harry, and everybody else, honest man, vagabond or loafer, who may choose to squat on the public domain, and cultivate vegetables, or erect houses for four or five years. But such a bill has been approved, and a most important bill too. It is the act lately passed, "providing for surveys, and granting homesteads to actual settlers in the territories of New Mexico, Kansas, and Nebraska," the second section of which is as follows:—

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That, to every white male citizen of the United States, or every white male who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and who has declared his intention to become a citizen, and who has resided in said territory prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and who may be actually residing there, there shall be, and hereby is granted one quarter section, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, and to every white male citizen of the United States, or every white male who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and who has declared his intention to become a citizen, and who has resided in said territory prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and who may be actually residing there, there shall be, and hereby is granted one quarter section, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, and to every white male citizen of the United States, or every white male who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and who 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sixty acres of land, and to every white male citizen of the United States, or every white male who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and who has declared his intention to become a citizen, and who has resided in said territory prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and who may be actually residing there, there shall be, and hereby is granted one quarter section, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, and to every white male citizen of the United States, or every white male who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and who has declared his intention to become a citizen, and who has resided in said territory prior to the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, and who may be actually residing there, there shall be, and hereby is granted one quarter section, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, and to every white male citizen of the United States, or every white male who has attained the age of twenty-one years, and who has 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